

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 918

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Rick Shepard on receiving the 2010 Community Leadership Award from Leadership Blount.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom all can be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Rick Shepard, recipient of the 2010 Community Leadership Award, which was conferred upon him by Leadership Blount for his many contributions to the public weal; and

WHEREAS, the Community Leadership Award honors those persons who have demonstrated their commitment to leadership in Blount County by helping to develop future leaders and serving their community in numerous leadership roles, all of which must be devoted to promoting community development; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shepard served with the courage and conviction of a true patriot for more than twenty years with the Tennessee Air National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Rick Shepard currently serves with acumen and alacrity as the city president of United Community Bank, in which position he has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues, employees, and clients alike due to the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being a wise and diligent businessman, Mr. Shepard is a dedicated civic leader who has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order through his work with numerous boards and organizations; and

WHEREAS, Rick Shepard rendered sterling service to the United Way of Blount County Board of Directors and Executive Committee from 1999-2007; as the chairman of the United

Way's capital campaign, he raised \$400,000 to enable this noble organization to construct its current building, and as Chairman of the Board, he helped United Way volunteers reach the \$2 million milestone, the highest total in the organization's history at the time; and

WHEREAS, active in the Blount County Chamber of Commerce for more than a decade, Mr. Shepard served on the Chamber's \$600,000 capital campaign and traveled throughout Europe to assist the Chamber in recruiting international businesses to Blount County; and

WHEREAS, Rick Shepard also works assiduously to promote the physical health and well-being of his fellow citizens by serving as the Chairman of East Tennessee American Cancer Society Leadership Council, the Co-Chairman of the Good Samaritan Health Clinic Gala, and, along with his beloved wife, Cindy, the 2008 Blount County Relay for Life Co-Chairman, in which position he raised a record-breaking \$389,000; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to protecting Tennessee's youngest citizens, Mr. Shepard is actively involved in Secret Safe Place for Newborns and serves as the president of New Hope Children's Advocacy Board; and

WHEREAS, having attained the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout many years ago, Rick Shepard tirelessly contributes to the character development, citizenship training, and physical and mental fitness of Blount County's young men with his exemplary service on the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America-Smoky Mountain Council and as the Chairman of the Blount County Friends of Scouting Campaign; this remarkable man was awarded the Tuckaleechee District Distinguished Service Award and the Tuckaleechee District Award of Merit for his noteworthy service to our youth; and

WHEREAS, believing deeply in the importance of educating, empowering, and encouraging all students to achieve their maximum potential, Mr. Shepard lends his time and tremendous talents to the Maryville College Community Campaign and, as treasurer for the Blount County Education Foundation, he helped raise more than \$1 million for the "It's About the Kids" program; and

WHEREAS, Rick Shepard's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shepard is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Rick Shepard on receiving the 2010 Community Leadership Award from Leadership Blount, thank him for his tireless service to the people of Blount County and this State, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.